

2010 Grand Canyon Reader Award Nominees

Available through AZ Braille and Talking Book Library

Non-Fiction

Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth

by Nicola Davies

BR17149

Presents facts about animals that thrive in conditions where humans would die. Discusses polar bears in the Arctic cold, Antarctic emperor penguins, wood frogs in frozen hibernation, desert camels and reptiles, heat-loving bacteria, deep-sea sponges, and the toughest creature of all--the tiny tardigrade, or water bear. For grades 3-6.

The Wolves Are Back

by Jean Craighead George

BR18040

Discusses how the 1926 disappearance of wolves upset the natural balance in the U.S. wilderness, causing other animal and plant losses. Explains that the 1995 release of Canadian wolves into Yellowstone National Park restored that balance and brought many creatures back to their original homeland. For grades K-3.

Intermediate

Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters

by Lesley Blume

RC66467

New York City. Eleven-year-old Cornelia S. Engelhart, daughter of a famous pianist, is lonely until a new neighbor moves into the next-door apartment. Friendship with glamorous writer and storyteller Virginia Somerset, her manservant Patel, and mischievous French bulldog Mister Kinyatta, opens Cornelia's world. For grades 4-7.

Swindle

by Gordon Korman

DB/RC67330

Sixth-grader Griffin Bing is known as "the man with a plan." When collectibles dealer Wendell Palomino cheats Griffin out of a rare Babe Ruth baseball card thought to be worth a fortune, Griffin hatches a doozy of a scheme to steal the card back. For grades 4-7.

The Year of the Dog

by Grace Lin

BR16624

While Pacy's Taiwanese American family prepares the Chinese New Year feast, Pacy hopes the Year of the Dog will be lucky for her. She does make a new best friend at school but "finding herself"--discovering her own talent--takes longer. For grades 3-6.

Tween

Airman

by Eoin Colfer

DB/RC66516

The Saltee Islands, Ireland; 1890s. Fourteen-year-old Conor Broekhart's idyllic childhood ends when he discovers a conspiracy against the king. Branded a traitor, Conor is imprisoned and must fight to stay alive. His only hope of escape is to build a flying machine. For grades 6-9.

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam

by Cynthia Kadohata

DB/RC65144

Vietnam War. Seventeen-year-old Rick Hanski joins a dog-handler program when he enlists. He trains with Cracker, a purebred German shepherd who learns to sniff out bombs, camouflaged traps, and the enemy. Cracker's skills help save many lives--including Rick's. Some violence. For grades 6-9.

Night of the Howling Dogs

by Graham Salisbury

DB/RC65946

BR17715

Hawaii, 1975. A Boy Scout campout on a remote beach goes terrifyingly wrong when an earthquake hits in the night. The boys and their leaders are separated during the resulting tsunami. But eighth-grader Dylan finds an unexpected ally as he and fifteen-year-old Louie rescue the group. For grades 5-8.

Paint the Wind

by Pam Munoz Ryan

DB/RC66479

When Maya's stern grandmother dies, the eleven-year-old orphan goes to live with her mother's family in Wyoming. She bonds with Artemisia, a wild mustang beloved by her mother, and when an earthquake occurs, the girl and the horse help each other survive. For grades 4-7

Rules

by Cynthia Lord

DB/RC62696

BR17108

Sometimes twelve-year-old Catherine resents her autistic brother, David, who breaks rules and gets all her parents' attention. She meets Jason, a teenage nonverbal paraplegic, at David's therapy center. As the two become friends, Catherine realizes that accepting differences matters more than any rules. For grades 5-8.

Schooled

by Gordon Korman

DB/RC68597

Raised and homeschooled on his grandmother's commune, thirteen-year-old Capricorn "Cap" Anderson abruptly transitions to a crowded and noisy middle school while his grandmother recuperates from an accident. Clueless and naive, Cap becomes a target for eighth-grade bully Zach Powers, who sets Cap up for ridicule. For grades 6-9.

The Wednesday War

by Gary D. Schmidt

DB/RC65788

BR17810

Long Island, 1967. Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood knows that Mrs. Baker "hates his guts" because she would have Wednesday afternoons free if he went to catechism or Hebrew school like his classmates. Mrs. Baker worries about her husband in Vietnam and introduces a reluctant Holling to Shakespeare. For grades 5-8.

Teen

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

by Sherman Alexie

DB/RC65403

Spokane Indian Reservation. Fourteen-year-old Junior--beset with physical problems caused by brain damage--transfers to an all-white town school. Called a traitor by his best friend and Tonto by his new classmates, Junior uses humor and wit to bridge the cultural divide. Some strong language. For junior and senior high readers.

City of Bones

by Cassandra Clare

DB/RC67159

Fifteen-year-old Clary witnesses Jace, Alec, and Isabelle attacking a punk rocker in a Manhattan nightclub. She discovers that the three teens are Shadowhunters, warriors who kill demons. After her mother disappears, Shadowhunters take Clary in, and she learns her family history. Some violence. For senior high readers.

Deadline

by Chris Crutcher

DB/DR65481

BR17545

Eighteen-year-old Ben Wolf hides his terminal illness from family and friends during his senior year of high school. Since he is now able to live without fearing consequences, Ben allows himself to fall in love, argue with a teacher, and play football. Some strong language. For senior high readers.

The Last Lecture

by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow

DB/RC66601

BR17828

Carnegie Mellon computer professor Pausch provides personal lessons and stories for his young children to learn from as they go through life.

Continues the message of his widely circulated taped lecture on achieving childhood dreams that he delivered after he learned he was dying of pancreatic cancer.

A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

by Ishamael Beah

RC63512

DB 63512 Available only to download BR17707

The author recalls experiences as a war refugee and as a thirteen-year-old soldier forced to join the Sierra Leone army. Beah describes participation in mass slaughters, his rehabilitation, immigration to America, and involvement with UNICEF. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac

by Gabrielle Zevin

DB/RC65723

A fall leaves sixteen-year-old Naomi with no memory of the past four years. She discovers that her parents are divorced, her father is engaged, she has a boyfriend and classmates she can't remember, and she must form a new identity for herself. Some strong language. For senior high readers.

Nature of Jade

by Deb Caletti

DB/RC64901

Coping with an anxiety disorder and warring parents, Seattle high school senior Jade volunteers at the zoo, where she meets and falls in love with twenty-year-old single father Sebastian. But Sebastian hides a secret that might disrupt Jade's already unsettled life. Some strong language. For senior high readers.

Quaking

by Kathryn Erskine

DB/RC65866

In a Pennsylvania town where antiwar sentiments are treated with contempt and violence, Matt, a fourteen-year-old girl moves in with foster parents, a Quaker couple. Matt deals with the demons of her past as she battles bullies of the present. Some strong language. For junior and senior high readers.

Rules of Survival

by Nancy Werlin

RC63569

DB63569 Available only to download

Teenaged Matthew and his two younger sisters struggle to protect themselves and one another from abuse by their mentally ill mother Nikki. Nikki's sister, ex-husband, and boyfriends ignore her cruelty for years, until a crisis forces them to act. Some violence.

Thirteen Reasons Why: A Novel

by Jay Asher

In Process

Clay Jensen receives a box of audiocassettes in the mail with no return address. Hannah Baker--a girl he barely knew but secretly liked, who committed suicide--recorded a final message for thirteen people to listen to and then pass on to the next person. For seniorhigh readers.

Twisted

by Laurie Halse Anderson

DB/RC65247

BR17488

Bullied Tyler Miller becomes infamous after vandalizing the school and being sentenced to community service. Returning for senior year, Tyler is accused of posting a classmate's nude pictures on the Internet. Life spirals downward until Tyler takes charge--at home and at school. Some strong language. For senior high readers.

Unwind

by Neal Shusterman

DB/RC66918

In a future world, parents may "unwind," or disassemble, their offspring between the ages of thirteen and eighteen to harvest their body parts for others' use. Teens Connor, Risa, and Lev fight to uphold their beliefs and perhaps save their own lives. For junior and senior high readers.

The White Darkness

by Geraldine McCaughrean

RC63797

DB63797 Available only to download

Teen Symone Wates is both apprehensive and excited when her uncle Victor whisks her away to Antarctica. When his obsession to locate Symmes's Hole puts their lives at risk, Symone's favorite companion--an imaginary incarnation of explorer Titus Oates--helps her to survive. Some strong language. For senior high readers.